

**CH-538**  
**Creason House**  
**White Plains vic.**  
**Private**

**1830-1860**

The Creason House consists of a 2-part, 2-story side gable frame dwelling with a 2-room, single-pile plan. The main, original section of the house features a 3-bay facade with a centered entrance with two window bays above. The rear elevation displays an identical design. The original exterior brick end chimney located on the east gable end has fallen in above the first story. A 1-1/2-story frame wing was added to the east gable end in the late 19th century. The interior reveals a 2-room plan with a double-winder stair set in the northwest corner of the west room.

Although there are indications that the Creason House was moved from another location, its modest mid-19th century form remains notable because of its relative rarity. The house represents the modest architectural expression of the upper-middle class planter of that era. The dwelling's simple form and interior reveal the continuation of traditional domestic forms in rural Charles County. The house occupies a tract once known as "Hannon's Hard Bargain" that has been held by the Moore family since 1867. Another historic dwelling dating to circa 1800 stands on a portion of this original property as well (see "Hannon's Hard Bargain, CH-534).

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Inventory No. CH-538

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1. Name of Property

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historic name Creason House (current ownership)  
common/other name \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Location

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street & number 10065 Billingsley Rd. (rear) not for publication \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town White Plains vicinity X state Maryland code MD  
county Charles code 017 zip code 20695

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification N/A

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4. National Park Service Certification N/A

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check all that apply)

X private  
\_\_\_\_\_ public-local  
\_\_\_\_\_ public-State  
\_\_\_\_\_ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

X building(s)  
\_\_\_\_\_ district  
\_\_\_\_\_ site  
\_\_\_\_\_ structure  
\_\_\_\_\_ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing      Noncontributing

<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Is this property listed in the National Register?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Listing \_\_\_\_\_  
No X

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>Single dwelling</u>
<u>AGRICULTURAL</u>	<u>Storage/processing</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>Single dwelling</u>
<u>AGRICULTURAL</u>	<u>Unknown</u>

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late Federal to Early Greek Revival  
(vernacular)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation solid: brick (bond not visible)  
roof side gable: asphalt shingles  
walls wood frame: asbestos shingles  
other \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1830-1860  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates 1830-1860  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation Undefined  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 8-1

CH-538

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*. Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records. Charles County Courthouse, La Plata, Maryland.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. *The History of Charles County, Maryland*. La Plata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

J. Richard Rivoire. *Homeplaces: Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland*. La Plata, MD: Charles County Community College, 1990.

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 44.0687 acres

**Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)**

The property is designated as Parcel 22 on Map 14, Grid 10 on the Charles County Property Map.

**Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)**

The Creason House has been associated with Parcel 22, Map 14 since its construction.

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11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Kathryn Gettings Smith, Architectural Historian  
organization Charles County Planning Dept. date May 9, 1999  
street & number P.O. Box B telephone 301-645-0689  
city or town La Plata state MD zip code 20646

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12. Property Owner

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name Linda J. Creason & John K. Moore, Jr.  
street & number 8070 Forest Glen Road telephone 301-645-5433  
city or town White Plains state MD zip code 20695

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MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-538

Section 7 Page 1

Creason House  
name of property  
Charles County, Maryland  
county and state

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The Creason House consists of a 2-part, 2-story side gable frame dwelling with a 2-room, single-pile plan. The main, original section of the house features a 3-bay facade with a centered entrance with two window bays above. The rear elevation displays an identical design. The original exterior brick end chimney located on the east gable end has fallen in above the first story. A 1-1/2-story frame wing was added to the east gable end in the late 19th century. The interior reveals a 2-room plan with a double-winder stair set in the northwest corner of the west room.

The Creason House stands on a 44-acre property located on the south side of Billingsley Road west of White Plains. A long gravel drive approaching the house is marked by two mature cedar trees at Billingsley Road. The house stands to the rear and west of a 1940s Colonial Revival brick dwelling that was erected on a 2.6-acre parcel cut out of the original tract. The house is currently abandoned and deteriorating rapidly. Small trees and vines surround the house with a few original shade trees dotting the area adjacent to the building.

The house displays a plain, 2-story side gable form characterized by its symmetrical facade with centered entry and flanking windows. The house appears to stand on a continuous brick foundation that upon further inspection reveals itself to be brick piers with a 1-brick-deep curtain running between the corner piers. The foundation and sill have seriously deteriorated from the weight of the house, causing the front sill to subside in the center.<sup>1</sup>

Constructed of heavy timber framing with cut-out corner posts and a false plate, the building's exterior walls have been reclad with asbestos shingles. A brick exterior end chimney once stood at the dwelling's east gable end, but has since fallen in above the level of the first floor ceiling. The exterior has been greatly altered and the boxed eaves show no original finishes. However, evidence of cornice returns remains at the east gable end. The side gable

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<sup>1</sup> Oral evidence suggests that the Creason House may have been moved from another location. This may explain the awkward and inappropriate foundation construction. If the building were moved during the late-19th or early 20th century, it would have been typical to place it on a standard brick pier foundation. However, this type of foundation would likely be inadequate to hold the weight of a heavy timber framed structure, which may have led to the foundation and sill failure at the Creason House.

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roof has also been reclad using asphalt shingles.

The front and rear faces of the dwelling are identical in design. They each feature a centered entrance holding a 4-panel wood door that is flanked by 6/6 wood sash windows on either side. The window's exterior frames were removed when the asphalt cladding was applied, as were the door casings. The rear entrance has been covered over by a 1-story plywood bathroom addition. The second story of the opposite faces are both pierced by 6/6 wood sash windows that align with the first story windows. The house's west gable end is unbroken except for a single elongated window that is missing its sash.

Attached to the east gable end is a 1-1/2-story late-19th century frame wing. Containing a single room on each level, the addition features a single 6/6 sash window on its north face, two elongated 4/4 sash windows in its east gable end, and a window and single-leaf door on its rear or south elevation. The single entrance holds a 4-panel wood door.

The Creason House interior has likewise been significantly altered. Only a few original interior finishes remain. It appears that the first floor underwent a near complete renovation in the late 19th or early 20th century. The majority of the baseboard has been replaced or stripped of its top bead, while the window and door casings consist of simple round-edged moldings consistent with late-19th and early 20th century vernacular finishes. Additionally, the walls and ceiling were stripped of their plaster and lath at one point and reclad with wall board. The floors remain and consist of 4-inch tongue-and-groove boards. The frame partition wall between the east and west rooms has been replaced, however, evidence indicates that there was an original partition wall in the same location.

The first floor is divided into two rooms, with the main door entering into the larger of the two on the east. This room also contains the one original firebox. The original Greek Revival mantel remains in situ, but has separated from the wall due to the collapse of the upper portions of the chimney. This fireplace wall retains its original plaster beneath the wall board along with the original baseboard.

The west room is a narrow space with the stair located in its northwest corner. The stair is configured as an enclosed double-winder with a closet below is undercarriage and a 4-panel wood door



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enclosing it. The exposed lath on the walls of the stair and on the second floor is all circular sawn and likely dates to the late-19th century renovation. Likewise, additional circular sawn second floor joists were added to supplement the original hewn joists. Also apparent from the stair is the building's framing members. The pit-sawn studs are attached to the plate with mature cut nails, and the standard false plate appears to be pit sawn.

The stair leads to a rectangular second floor hall that opens into two bedrooms. The stair continues to wind up to the third or garret level. Again the stair is enclosed with a beaded vertical board door that it constructed with wrought-headed nails.

The original reeded door and window trim remain on the second floor. The larger of the two bedrooms is located on the east end and may once have been heated by a fireplace. All evidence of a firebox has been obliterated in later renovations.

The garret level contains a single open space defined by side knee walls and evidence of plaster-and-lath finish.

The east wing consists of a single first story room adorned in similar fashion as the rest of the first floor. A boxed stair once rose from the first to the second floor in the wing's northeast corner, but has since been converted to a closet. The second floor of the wing reveals its circular-sawn framing members under the seriously deteriorated floor. The space is finished with plaster and lath, and accessed via a board-and-batten door.

OUTBUILDINGS:

Three ancillary buildings accompany the main dwelling, two of which contribute to the historic significance of the property. One contributing resource is a 1940s frame tobacco barn clad in vertical boards and covered by a sheet metal front gable roof. The building features two large tractor bays with double-leaf doors on either gable end.

The other contributing resource is a 1930s frame shed constructed of circular sawn framing and uniquely clad with sawn half-round tree trunks.

The one non-contributing resource is a 1-story 1960s to 1970s frame shed standing directly behind the dwelling and clad with sheet metal.

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Creason House  
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Although there are indications that the Creason House was moved from another location, its modest mid-19th century form remains notable because of its relative rarity. The house represents the modest architectural expression of the upper-middle class planter of that era who found new prosperity in crop diversification. The dwelling's simple form and interior reveal the continuation of traditional domestic forms in rural Charles County. The house occupies a tract once known as "Hannon's Hard Bargain" that has been held by the Moore family since 1867. Another historic dwelling dating to circa 1800 stands on a portion of this original property as well (see "Hannon's Hard Bargain, CH-534).

The house stands on a 45-acre portion of a tract once known as "Hannon's Hard Bargain." The land was owned and occupied by George S. Adams during the early decades of the 19th century. After his death, Adams's heir, Leonard Adams filed a petition with the Circuit Court for the division and sale of the lands of George Adams. A commission was formed to carry out the court's decree, and a 244.5-acre portion of "Hannon's Hard Bargain" was sold for \$1467 to Rufus A. Moore in 1867.

In 1873, Moore sold the same tract to Benjamin W. Moore, at which time the property was described as part of "Hannon's Hard Bargain," "Boswell's Desert," and "Mary's Delight." Benjamin Moore held the property until his death in 1903. Dying without a will, the property passed to his heirs who included his widow and four children. The land was eventually divided between two sons, J. Clarence Moore and Clarence A. Moore. The latter received the 177.4-acre tract upon which the present Creason House stands.

Clarence A. Moore died intestate in 1977, passing his land along to his heirs-at-law. Divided among his several heirs, the 45.6-acre tract upon which the house stands transferred to the current owners, Linda J. Creason (nee Moore) and John K. Moore, Jr. The property has remained in the Moore family for over 130 years.

The period between 1810 and 1850 brought a revived economic prosperity to Charles County and much of Southern Maryland. The diversification of agriculture from tobacco as the main staple crop, to the production of newly profitable grains and cereals caused a short-lived economic boom prior to the Civil War. The architectural record reveals that this period of prosperity also brought on a boom in construction of new dwellings and the

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enlargement of many others.<sup>2</sup> The Creason House is likely a product of this period of prosperity and building activity that saw the rise of a modestly prosperous planter class in Charles County.

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<sup>2</sup> J. Richard Rivoire, p. 20-21.

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**HISTORIC CONTEXT:**

**Geographic Organization:** Western Shore

**Chronological/Development Period (s):**

Agricultural-Industrial Transition,  
1815-1870

**Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme (s):**

ARCHITECTURE

**RESOURCE TYPE(S)**

**Category:** Building

**Historic Environment:** Rural

**Historic Function (s):** DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

**Known Design Source:** Unknown

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**Chain of Title:**

?????: to George S. Adams

November 5, 1867: Joseph Stewart, William A. Mudd,  
James M. Burch, W.H. Moore &  
Benjamin W. Blandford, Commissioners  
appointed to divide & make sale of  
lands of the late George S. Adams to  
Rufus A. Moore  
\$1467  
244.5 acres  
Leonard Adams filed petition with  
Circuit Court for the sale of said  
lands  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber GAH 1 Folio 354

February 8, 1873: Rufus A. Moore of Charles County to  
Benjamin W. Moore of Charles County  
\$1000  
244 acres, Part of: "Hannons Hard  
Bargain," "Boswell's Desert," &  
"Mary's Delight"  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber GAH 3 Folio 635

1903: Benjamin W. Moore died intestate  
Heirs: widow, Mary E. Moore & 4  
children, Thomas A., Vernon A.,  
Clarence A. & J. Edgar Moore

1904-1949: Clarence A. Moore obtains full  
ownership of 177.4-acre portion of  
"Hannon's Hard Bargain" from  
brothers. See:  
January 14, 1904, Liber BGS 14,  
Folio 511; December 10, 1949, Liber  
89, Folio 471

February 13, 1977: Clarence A. Moore died intestate

November 4, 1981: J. Clarence Moore & Natalie A.  
Knott, personal representatives of  
Clarence A. Moore to J. Clarence

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Moore, Natalie A. Knott, et al.  
Clarence A. Moore died intestate  
February 13, 1977  
2 tracts: 1) "Addition" & "Hannons  
Hard Bargain" = 177.4 acres; 2)  
1.645 acres  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber 809 Folio 110

March 30, 1990: Margaret Ann Gabeler, personal  
representative of Joseph Clarence  
Moore to Louise Marie Moore,  
Margaret Ann Gabeler, Trustee  
177.4 acres plus 1.645 acres  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber 1456 Folio 487

August 17, 1990: Natalie A. Knott, William Lawrence  
Moore, Linda J. Creason, John  
Kenneth Moore, Jr., Louise Marie  
Moore & Margaret Ann Gabeler,  
Trustees to Linda J. Creason (nee  
Moore) & John K. Moore, Jr.  
Parcel "B" 45.6477 acres  
Land inherited by grantors from J.  
Clarence Moore  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber 1494 Folio 390

August 17, 1990: Natalie Knott, William L. Moore,  
Linda J. Creason, John Kenneth  
Moore, Jr., Louise Marie Moore &  
Margaret Ann Gabeler to Linda J.  
Creason & John K. Moore, Jr.  
45.6477 acres Parcel "A"  
Charles County Land Records  
Liber 1494 Folio 394

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

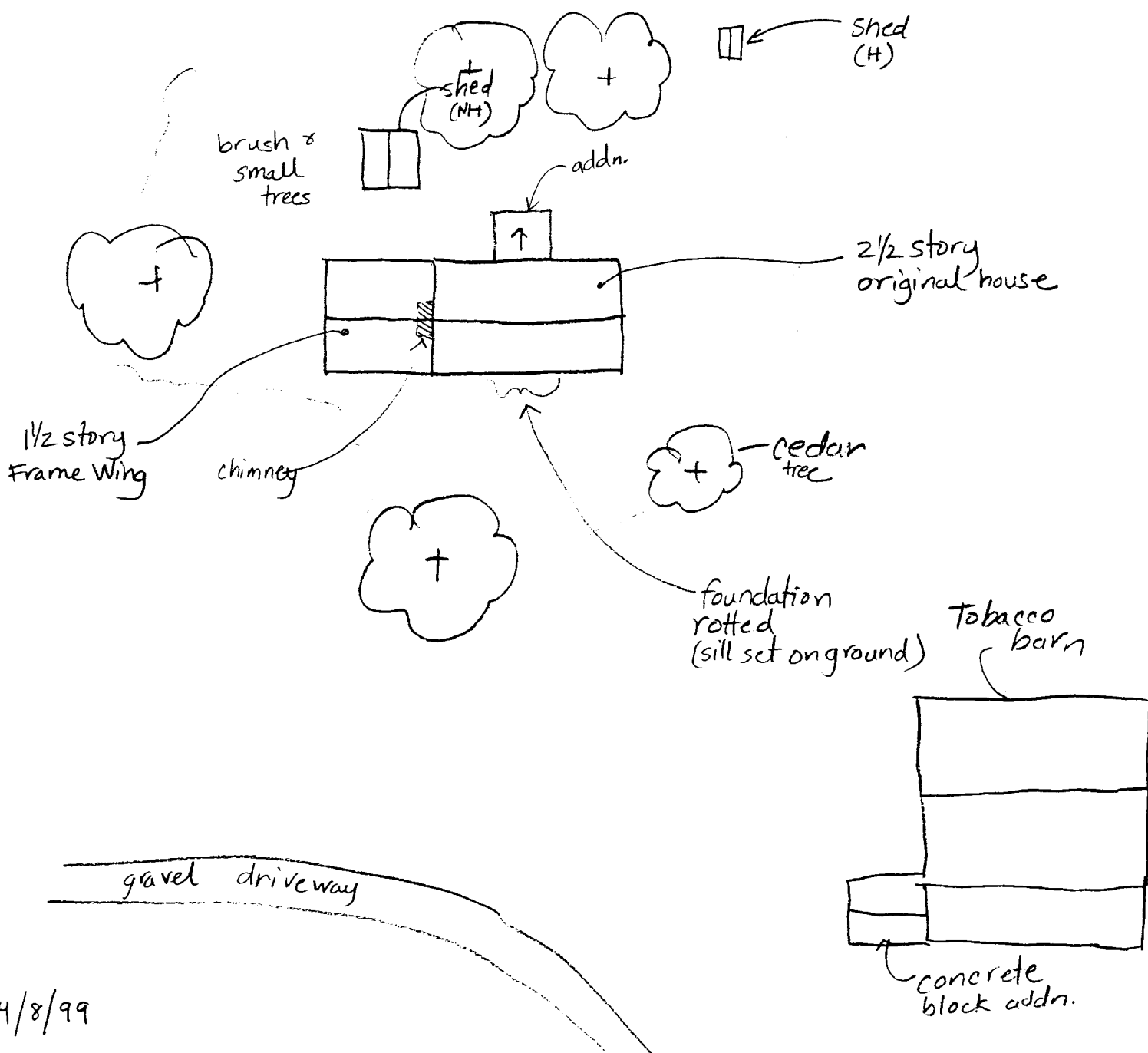
4/99

CREASON HOUSE  
CHARLES COUNTY, MD  
10065 Billingsley Rd. (Rear)  
White Plains vic.

CH-538



open field



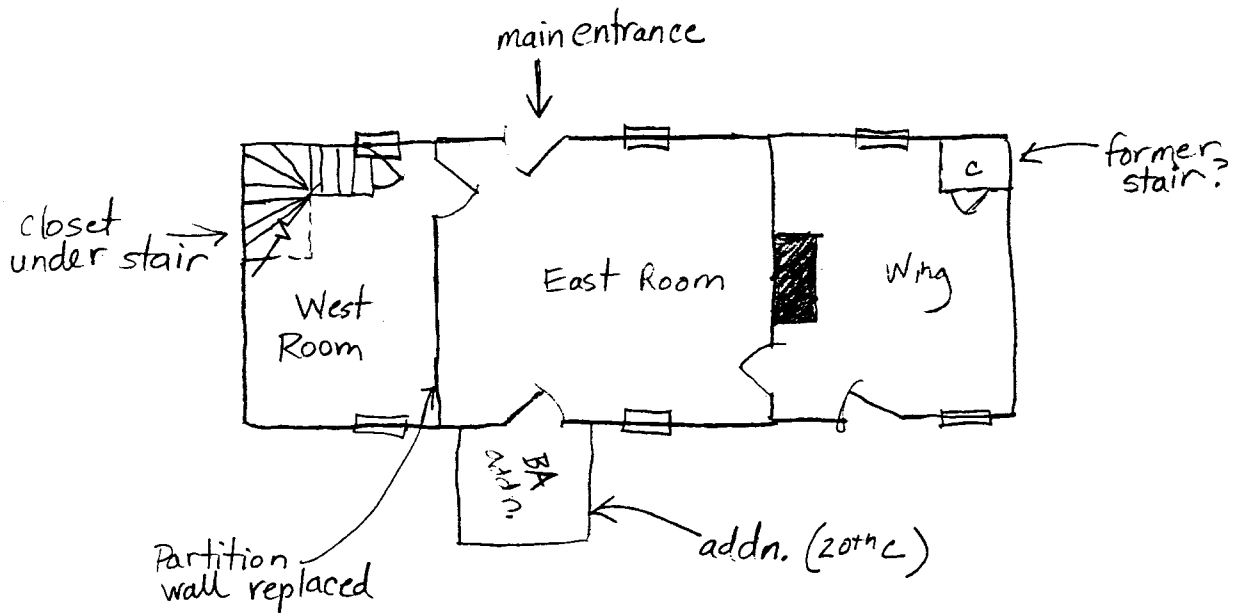
4/8/99

# FIRST FLOOR PLAN



CREASON HOUSE  
CHARLES COUNTY, MD  
10065 Billingsley Rd. (Rear)  
White Plains vic.

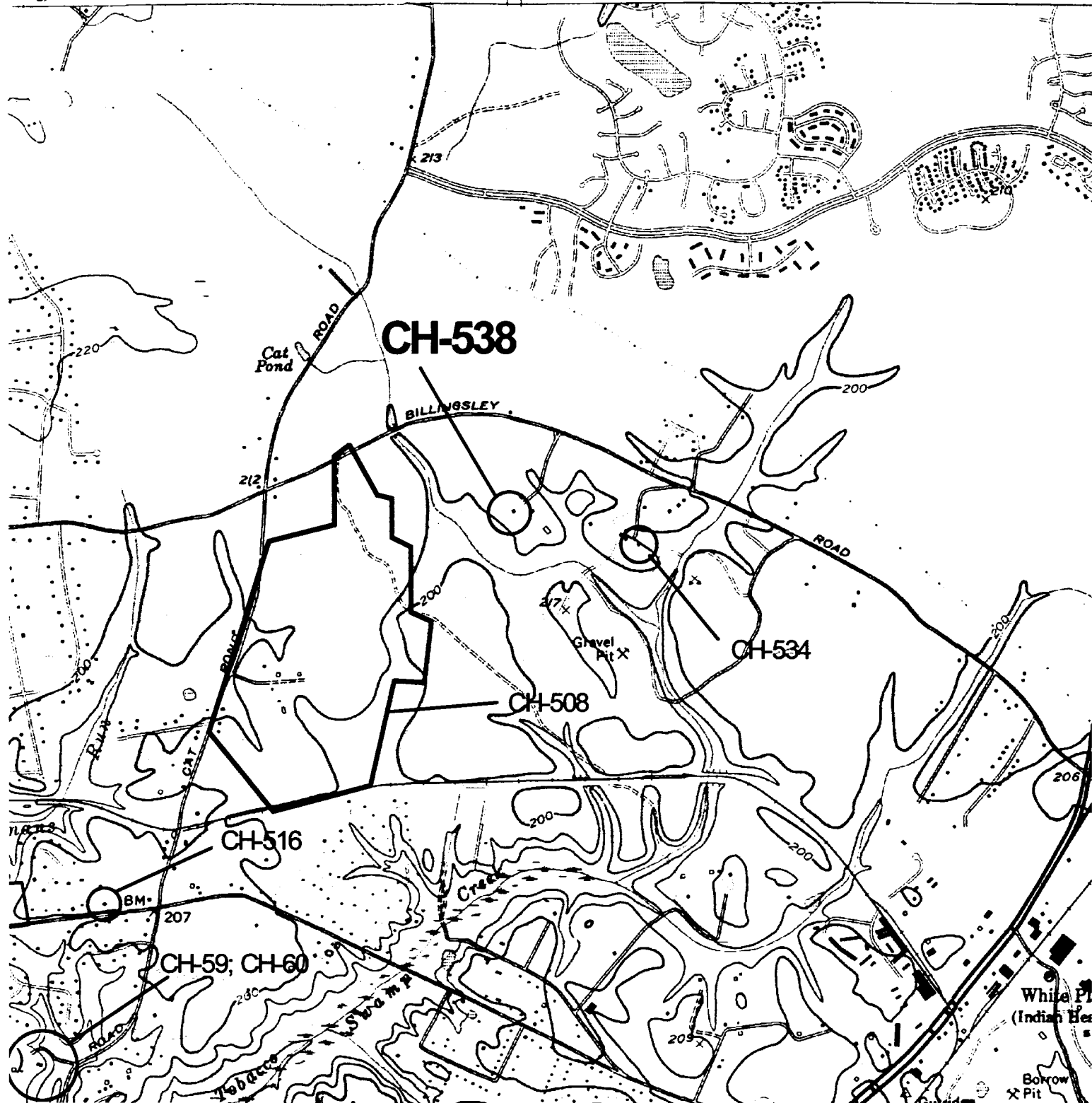
CH-538



## FIRST FLOOR PLAN

4/8/99





Creason House  
Charles County, MD

CH-538

LA PLATA, MD QUAD



CH-538

CREASON HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

4/99

MARYLAND SHPO

LOOKING SW

1 OF 10



CH-538

CREASON HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

4/99

MARYLAND SHPD

DETAIL OF CENTER DOOR - NORTH FACADE

2 OF 10



QH-538

CREASON HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

4/99

MARYLAND SHPO

SOUTH ELEVATION

3 OF 10





CH-538

CREASON HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

4/99

MARYLAND SHPO

WEST GABLE END

4 OF 10



CH-538

CREASON HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

4/99

MARYLAND SHPO

EAST GABLE END

5 OF 10



CH-538

CREASON HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

4/99

MARYLAND SHPO

EAST WING-SOUTH ELEVATION

6 OF 10



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CREASON HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

4/99

MARYLAND SHPO

WEST ROOM - VIEW OF STAIR

7 OF 10





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CREASON HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

4/99

MARYLAND SHPO

EAST ROOM - MANTEL

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CREASON HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

K.G. SMITH

4/99

MARYLAND SHPO

BARN - LOOKING NW

9 OF 10



CH-538

CREASON HOUSE

CHARLES COUNTY, MD

KG. SMITH

4/99

MARYLAND SHPO

SHED - LOOKING SE

10 OF 10